Provision of fibre cable in WLL

2127. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made plans to "unbundle" the local loop (LLU);

(b) if so, whether MTNL and BSNL have already leased out wholly or partly the local segments of their networks to competitors;

(c) the advantage to MTNL and BSNL by strengthening their private sector competitors;

(d) whether the change from copper wires to fibre optic would involve heavy investment; and

(e) the steps proposed to review these policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) MTNL and BSNL have not leased out copper local loop to the private operators.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) The choice of the transmission medium of the network depends upon the techno-economic consideration and the decision is made by the operator based on the requirement of the network, its load, etc.

(e) The Government does not interfere in the commercial decision of the telecom service providers.

Use of BSNL employees in tele marketing

2128. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any effort to study the use of rural-based telecom employees to market tele-products of BSNL;

(b) whether any efforts have been made to offer incentives and rewards to linemen, exchange operators and others to widen the rural subscriber base of BSNL;

(c) whether any scheme presently in operation in Andhra Pradesh to use BSNL employees in rural areas to sell mobile and other connections; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, BSNL has instituted special awards like Sanchar Sewa Padak, Sanchar Sarathi, Sanchar Shree, Sanchar Doot, Vishist Sewa Padak to appreciate and recognize good work done by staff. These awards are given annually and carry fixed amount of prize money as well.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Lifelong mobile/telephone service

†2129. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some private telephone operators are advertising for providing lifelong mobile and telephone service;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rules for such an advertisement;

(c) the manner in which telephone services of any telephone operator would be maintained under such an advertisement in case its service gets discontinued or its license gets cancelled prior to its expiry;

(d) whether it is also a fact that many top officers are not taking any action against the said companies despite having knowledge of the same; and

(e) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Several mobile operators have implemented tariff schemes under the name and style of lifetime validity wherein in lieu of an upfront payment the subscribers are being offered

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.